Heraclitus Ridens,

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A DIALOGUE between JEST and EARNEST

Concerning the

TIMES.

Vol. I.

WITH

A Preface relating to the Deſigns of it.

To be Continued Weekly.

——*Spoliatis* Arma *ſuperſunt.* Juv. Sat. viii.

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Augt 3. 1703

THE
PUBLISHER to the READER.

THE Design of Prefaces is to tell the Reader that of the Books they belong to; I shall therefore only Premise that the Neceſſity of the Times were of ſufficient Inducements to oblige me to this Publication, and that I could not but think it highly Requiſite, while the Obſervator *was Publickly Tolerated to revive the Doctrines of* Forty One *againſt the Government and Church Eſtabliſh'd, to ſtand in the Gap as long as I could, and Oppoſe his undutiful Intentions by the Principles of Obedience. Not that the Perſons concern'd in this Paper, had ſuch Arrogant Conceptions, as to think themſelves Capable of doing that Juſtice to the Queen and their Native Country, as Both ſo Illuſtriouſly deſerve; but having Obſerved, to their great Sorrow, as well as Amazement, that thoſe who were better skill'd in each of their Defence, ſtood unconcern'd at the Common Enemy's Attacks, they could no longer as Chriſtians and Subjects deſiſt from what they have now Undertaken. They are ſatisfied that to Perform things to a General Satisfaction, is not in their Power, however they cannot but hope that they have pleas'd the Better Part of the World, which are thoſe that are Honeſt, and Men of Integrity. As for the Objections, which thoſe of a Contrary Perſwaſion, make uſe of to their Prejudice, in order to render 'em Obnoxious to Parliaments, they have that Confidence in the Wiſdom, Juſtice and Loyalty of that Auguſt Aſſembly, as not to be in any wiſe Sollicitous upon that Head, ſince both the Honour of Queen and Kingdom, is what they Chiefly propoſe. To teach the Doctrine of Obedience, to diſſwade People from taking Arms againſt thoſe whom God has ſet over them, and to Evidence to thoſe who have entertain'd any Jealouſies to the contrary, that the* Church *by Law eſtabliſh'd,*

To the Reader.

bliſhed, is highly Superiour to any other which can be oppoſed againſt it, is the Buſineſs they are reſolv'd to ſtand by, and it is not to be doubted but they ſhall rather meet with Encouragement from Men in Authority for ſo doing, than what they are daily threaten'd with, thoſe Gentlemen's Reſentments. If they have not all along kept up to the Merriment of Heraclitus Ridens, *that was Publiſh'd in King* Charles *the* 2*d's Reign, they have to Plead for ſo doing, that the Numbers and Encreaſe of the Diſſenting Faction in theſe Times will not permit it. As ſoon as it may be done with Safety, the Reader will find them ready to comply with any thing for his Diverſion, till then we ſhall conſult our own Security as well as his* Entertainment.

Aug 31 1703

641

Numb. 1.

Heraclitus Ridens.

In a DIALOGUE between *JEST* and *EARNEST*, Concerning the *TIMES*.

The Reaſon why they have ſo long broke off Correſpondence, with the Cauſe of their taking it up again. No People Friends to the Queen that are not ſo to the Church. The Play-houſe more Edifying than the Conventicle. Reaſons for Continuing the Repairs of the Theatre in Dorſet-garden, *in Anſwer to the* Obſervator, *on that Head. The Diſſolution of the Stage precedent to that of the Church in* Cromwell *s Days. News from* Oxford, *with an Epigram relating to the Actors giving away a whole Days Pay towards the Repair of a Church there.*

To be Continued on Tuesdays and Saturdays in every Week.

Jeſt. YOU are well met, Neighbour, it's Time out of Mind ſince we have held any Diſcourſe together.

Earneſt. Truly, ſo it is, I have often wonder'd at it; it cannot be for want of Subjects.—— Never was ſuch Abundance.—— Every Moment furniſhes us with freſh Matter—— But if I may give you my Opinion—— Self-Preſervation interrupted our Correſpondence—— Times were, when a Man had not that freedom of Speech, as he may take the Liberty of now—— And I was for keeping a whole Carcaſs as long as I could.

Jeſt. The very ſame Reaſon as mine. I ever had an Averſion for *Aaron Smith* and Captain *Baker*, and had much rather be without a Jeſt, than fall into the Hands of the Civil Magiſtrate for it. But we may venture now, we are a Match once more for the *Whigs*, and our Lord Mayors have left off going to St. *Paul*'s Church in the Morning, and hearing Lectures at *Finners-Hall* in the Afternoon.

Earneſt. Right—— But we are Anticipated as to the Continuance of our former Deſign, there are more Weekly Papers already than are Read; and there is a certain Gentleman that has taken that Employment off from our Hands.

Jeſt. That very Gentleman you ſpeak of, ſhould be the only Inducement for us to join together, and make it our Endeavour to oppoſe his Pernicious Intentions By thoſe that are of a contrary Nature.

Earneſt. Hold—— You'll talk Treaſon by and by—— Are not Mr. *Obſervator* and his *Countryman* Two of the *Queen's Beſt Friends?*—— I am ſure they Stile themſelves ſo, and ſure you will not be ſuch a Mad Man as to Incur their Diſpleaſure by giving them any other Characters.

Jeſt. It's a Queſtion whether the Queen thinks 'em ſo—— And I am ſatisfy'd none can be Her Friends, that are Foes to that Excellent Church and Faith which Her Majeſty is juſtly Stil'd the Defender of.

Earneſt. Fy—— You are a Mile from the Mark, they are Enemies to none but the *Papiſts*, the *Jews*, and the *Jacobites*—— They'll tell you the very ſame, nay they have done it over and over, and it will be a Rudeneſs in you not take their Words.

Jeſt. It's no matter they muſt hold me Excus'd—— Either I can't read *Engliſh*, or I know to the Contrary. As all are not *Papiſts* whom they affirm to be ſo, ſo all are not *Jacobites* that treat the Family of the *Stuart*'s which Her Majeſty is deſcended from, with a Reſpect that is due to that Illuſtrious Houſe. But Mr. *Obſervator* has been already taken to Task as to that Point, and it ſhall be my buſineſs to fall upon Matters of a later Date, and treat of Occurrences that are nearer and within the Compaſs of our Remembrance. What think you of his late Charge againſt the Play Houſe?

Earneſt. I think he is in the Right of it—— It is the Devil's Chappel, and ought not to be Tolerated; A meer *Papiſtical* Invention, a *Romiſh* Idolatry, and a great Hindrance to the *Reformation of Manners* that is now ſet a foot in Her Majeſty's Dominions.

Jeſt. Very well—— In my Conſcience my Friend *Earneſt* has made a Viſit to the Brethren of *Geneva* lately—— He makes uſe of the Language of the Saints ſo aptly. Certainly *Collier* has Poſſeſs'd you inſtead of the Devil, or you would never make uſe of ſuch Terms to call an innocent Diverſion by, a Place of Inſtruction and Reproof.——

Earneſt. You were beſt tell the *Obſervator* ſo, he and his *Countryman* will make a Devil of you, and call upon the Gentlemen at *Hicks*'s *Hall* to Preſent you. For my Part, Safe's the Word, I am not for Provoking him—— Neither would I have you have any Dealings with him, he has worſted one Antagoniſt already, flung his Poetical Enemy, and *Rob. Stevens* on their Backs, and you muſt expect the ſame Treatment. His are *Argumenta Bacillina*, and if his Reaſons can't perſwade you, his *Countryman's* Oaken Towel will.

Jeſt. Not unlikely; yet I muſt ask his Pardon, for if he comes in my way it is all one, I ſhall uſe him and others that fall

fall under my Cognizance alike. To begin then with the Stage, that is so mightily Cry'd down by the Dissenting Party, and our pretended *Reformers*. I have drawn more useful Observations from the Theatre in *Dorset Garden*, that is so much Inveigh'd against, than it is possible to bring away from *Salters-Hall*. And if Plays, whose chief Design tend to the Encouragement of Virtue, and Discountenance of Vice, be contrary to Her Majesty's most gracious Proclamation, some sort of Sermons cannot be extraordinary Edifying, whose Excellence lies all in the Gesture of the *Precisians* that preach 'em, and whose Exhortations are Chiefly couch'd under an Affected Wink, and an Hypocritical Cast of the Eye.

Earn. But the Grand Jury tells you in their Presentment, That the Toleration of these Houses Corrupt the City Youth, makes em Dissolute and Immoral, and entices 'em to take Lewd Courses.

Jest. I am sorry to hear the Citizens Instructions bear so little Weight with 'em, and am apt to think they are not so *Exemplary* in their Lives and Conversations, as they have been suppos'd to be. Would their Masters keep a strict Hand over 'em, there would be no Reason for Complaints, and I dare be perswaded there is more Debauchery occasion'd by pretending to eat Custards towards *Hampstead*, *Islington*, and Sir *George Whitmore*'s, in a Week, than is possible to be brought about by a Play-house in a Twelve Month. But People that are most Wicked, would make a Shew of the most Sanctity, and will always find Mismanagements in a Government, that are Uneasie under it. The Dissolution of the Stage preceded that of the Church of *England* in *Oliver*'s Days; and I wish those in our Times that are so Violent against the *One*, don't level their Aim against the *Other*. But our Wise Ministry is to be Judge of that; since it is on their Counsels alone we are to relye for due Methods of Prevention.

Earn. I am altogether of the same Opinion with you. The *Dissenters* are not so much for encouraging Virtue in themselves, as they are for Discouraging it in others, and Uniformity and Order is what they Chiefly drive at. But I have a piece of News come by the last Post from *Oxford*. *The Players*, says my Friend, *are now going to leave us, after having done a Piece of Charity that was not expected from 'em, given the Town a Whole Days Playing towards Rebuilding one of our Churches that has lately fall'n down.* But what need is there of any Arguments to Convince him that Plays are good and Useful, when he has found by *Experience* from one of his own, which fell under a State of Damnation in the Year 89, that all are not to be accounted so.

Jest. Did not I tell you the Players were better Friends to the Church than those that makes such a Stir against 'em. It comes Confirm'd from the University, and I am for their going on with their Repairs in *Dorset-Garden*. It's Mr. *Killigrew*'s Business to see that nothing Immoral be Acted there, as to the Plays; and every Auditor's Business to take such Care of himself, as not to be Seduc'd by what does not belong to 'em, I mean the several Sort of People that come thither.

But I have made an Appointment, and the Times draws nigh, when my Company will stay for me, I shall therefore take my Leave of you with the following *Epigram*, till next *Saturday*, when you may depend upon my Company again.

Momus *Prates on, and Rails against the Stages,*
As Burning Scandals to Religious Ages;
Let him Rail on, for Bread and sordid Ends,
And wriggle in amongst John Calvin's *Friends,*
Pryn's *Histriomastix of its Rancour Glean,*
And find out Poyson in a harmless Scene.
Who for Religion's Chief Supports are held,
They that Pull down *the* Church, *or they that* Build?

Earnest. Agreed. I shall not fail; but it's fitting before we take our Leaves of one another, to acquaint the Publick after what Method we design to Entertain 'em. For the Observator does not make such a Figure in the World, nor is his Paper of such an establish'd Repute as to take up all our Notice.

Jest. That's true — We are not like to fall under a scarcity of Subjects: while there are Fools in the World, it is not like to want Merriment; and while there are Wise Men in it, it need not doubt of having such Examples propos'd to its imitation as shall be much for its Advantage. The Common Occurrences of Life, the Publication of Books, the Defence of the Government and Church establish'd, is what we are to go upon. In a word, to use the Poet's Expressions.

Quicquid agunt Homines, Votum, timor, Ira, voluptas,
Gaudia, Discursus, nostri est Farrago Libelli.

*** *Advertisements will be taken in for this Paper, on* Mondays *and* Fridays *at Reasonable Rates.*

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